Commonwealth senior officials meeting:

1J31. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Commonwealth; Senior Officials' meeting was held at Islamabad from 22nd to 24th, November, 1994;

(b) whether Senior Officials of India participated jn the meeting;

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) whether resumption of Indo-Pak ialks on bilateral relations also look place in the meeting; and

le) if so, the details thereof and if sot, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ^TATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Sir.

(c) The Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting ^SOM) is held biennially at the level of Cabinet Secretaries/ Foreign Secretaries. The Indian delegation to the Islamabad SOM was led by the Foreign Secretary and also comprised Joint Secretary (IPA) and Joint Secretary (EW) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(d) and (e) We had conveyed in advance to Pakistan through the diplomatic channels that in the margins of the SOM, Foreign Secretary would be available for any discussions, formally or informally, on the bilateral issues. Pakistan however, has been raising conditions an<j pre-conditions for any talks.

Fo recovler Hand ocenpied by Pakistan

1132. SHRI KRTSHAN LAL SHAR-MA: Wi'l the Minister of. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

*a) whether *i* is a fact that a large chunk of Indian territory is under illegal occn^ntion o' Pakistan, commonly referred to as 'POK';

(b) what steps Government of India have taken so far and nropose to take to recover that territory from Pakistan in the light of facts that holding of negotiations under Simla Agreement to resolve the Kashmir issue have not borne any fruit; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the press reports of 22nd November, 1994, about Pakistan's rejection of Indian Prime Minister's offer for holding talks to resolve bilateral matters and branding India as insincere in resolving the Kashmir issue and insistence of Indian High Commission officials in Islamabad that offer of talks bet h two countries stands?

THE MINISTER OF STAT I MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA); (a) Y

lb") Under the Simla Agreement of July 1972, Government of India and Government of Pakistan are committed to resolve their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations.

(c) We are disappointed that a P^os^i" tive response is not available so far from Pakistan to our repeated offers in the recent period to hold talks, formally or informally. Pakistan bas also been raising various conditions and pre-conditions for any talks. We would, however, pursue our proposal of a constructive dialogue with Pakistan at every opportunity.

Extradition of LITE Chief

1133. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached the Government of Sri Lanka for the extradition of the LTTE Chief V. Prabhakaran who was declared a proclaimed offender in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case; if so, when and what is the reaction of the Government of Srj Lanka in regard thereto; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA); u) and (b) All relevant aspects of approaching the